

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends claims 21, 23, 33, 41, and 49 and cancels without prejudice claims 32, 48, and 50.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 32, 48, and 50. Claims 32 and 48 are directed towards a rim that can be used both for tires that have an inner tube, and those that do not, that is, tubeless tires. Similar structure is now claimed in independent claims 21, 33, and 41.

The Amendment amends claim 23 to address the Action's antecedent concerns.

Finally, the Amendment revises claim 33 to clarify antecedent concerns and clarify that the tubular element has a second position, in which the tubular element is removed from the through hole so that the rim can be used with an optional inner tube of the tire.

The Amendment combines the "weld" language of claim 50 indicated as allowable into the remaining independent claim 49. Claim 49 is further amended to clarify the language and antecedent concerns not raised in the Action.

The Action objected to the drawings as not showing the weld of claim 50. Claim 49 now claims the "weld" of claim 50. This weld is shown in at least Figure 2 and described in the Specification at Paragraph [0019]. Due to the above

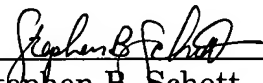
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amendment to claim 49 and this support, an Amendment to the drawings is not believed necessary.

For the above reasons, and in particular because all of the claims recite allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that an interview, either over the telephone or in person would advance the prosecution of this case, the undersigned would welcome such an opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

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